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ABSTRACT

This program examines the changing relationship between the military and the press. In this episode leading journalists and military public affairs officials debate uses of censorship, access to the battlefield, and the impact of live television on military operations. The study guide offers questions to use before viewing the video, questions to follow the video, classroom activities to focus student thinking on the problem, topics for further research, and a list of eight resources. (EH)

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

AMERICA'S DEFENSE MONITOR

ED 390 765

Educational TV for the Classroom

STUDY GUIDE FOR

The Press and the Pentagon: EPISODE #824

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Produced by the Center for Defense Information

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The Press and the Pentagon:

Both the news media and the military are vital to America's national well-being. However, throughout history the relationship between the two has been adversarial.

While the military needs the press to retain public and Congressional support, it also fears the success of its missions will be compromised by an inquisitive press corps--a problem magnified by the recent advances in news broadcasting technology.

This episode of *America's Defense Monitor* examines the changing relationship of the military and the press. As a democratic society, how are we to address the balance between the need for military operational security and the need for an informed public? How is the military preparing to deal with today's " instant global media environment?" In *The Press and the Pentagon,* leading journalists and military public affairs officials debate uses of censorship, access to the battlefield, and the impact of live TV on military operations.

THIS PROGRAM FEATURES:

Peter Arnett	Correspondent, CNN
Clifford Bernath	Dept. of Defense, Public Affairs
Walter Cronkite	Special Correspondent, CBS
John Fialka	Reporter, The Wall Street Journal
Marvin Kalb	Professor, Harvard University
John MacArthur	Publisher, Harper's Magazine
Gen. Charles McClain Jr.	U.S. Army
Col. Fred Peck	U.S. Marine Corps

QUESTIONS BEFORE VIEWING

1) How would you characterize relations between the news media and the military?

2) What images of the military are portrayed most frequently on TV? Why do you think that is so?

3) Should there be limits to the public's right to know in a democracy?

4) What is the definition of censorship? Under what circumstances is it acceptable?

QUESTIONS AFTER VIEWING

(Note: It may be useful to give these questions to students prior to viewing so that they will be more prepared to respond.)

1) Does the program present a certain viewpoint? If so, how would you describe this perspective?

2) How has technology changed the nature of wartime reporting?

3) How has the relationship between the press and the military changed over time?

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Since its enactment in 1966, journalists have used the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to find out more about government policies and activities. Have the class research the Freedom of Information Act including its history, how to find declassified government documents, and the procedure for filling a FOIA request.

Then divide the class into small groups and have the students draft and file a FOIA request on a topic of their own choosing.

TOPICS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Examine media images of the military throughout U.S. history. How have these images changed or have they stayed basically the same?

Research and compare the relationship between the press and the military in the U.S. and in other nations. Are there many similarities or is the structure of the American press unique?

Explore how disputes between the press and the military have been settled historically in the courts. What limits to free speech and a free press have been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court?

RESOURCES

Bennett, W. Lance and Paletz, David L., ed. *Taken by Storm: The Media, Public Opinion, and U.S. Foreign Policy in the Gulf War*. University of Chicago Press. Chicago. 1994.

Dennis, Everette E. *The Media at War: The Press and the Persian Gulf Conflict*. Gannett Foundation. New York. 1991.

Fialka, John J. *Hotel Warriors: Covering the Gulf War*. Woodrow Wilson Center Press. Washington D.C. 1991.

Knightley, Phillip. *The First Casualty*. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich. New York. 1975.

MacArthur, John R. *Second Front: Censorship and Propaganda in the Gulf War*. Hill and Wang. New York. 1992.

Matthews, Lloyd J. ed. *Newsmen & National Defense*. Brassey's (U.S.), Inc. McLean. 1991.

Pentagon Rules on Media Access to the Persian Gulf War. Hearing before the Committee on Governmental Affairs, United States Senate. 102 Congress. First Session. February 20, 1991.

Thompson, Loren B. *Defense Beat: The Dilemmas of Defense Coverage*. Lexington Books. New York. 1991.

RELATED SHOWS

If you enjoyed *The Press and the Pentagon* be sure not to miss these episodes of *America's Defense Monitor*:

SG520 The Media and the Iraq War:

- *Does Pentagon censorship of reporters subvert the First Amendment's protection of a free press? Does the public have a right to know about the unpleasant facts of war?*

Guests include: David Hackworth (Newsweek) and Pete Williams (Former Asst. Sec. of Defense)

SG724 The Media and the Images of War:

- *Do violent images in movies and on TV provoke real violence? Movies and television have helped transmit from generation to generation a series of myths about war, peace, weapons, and the use of force.*

Guests include: Richard Slotkin (Author, *Gunfighter Nation*)

SG642 The Language of War:

- *Does the military establishment use language to clarify or camouflage the reality of war and preparations for war? Three combat-veteran-writers share their views with humorist Jim Boren's own inimitable treatment of Pentagon doublespeak.*

Guests include: David Hackworth (Newsweek) and Harry Summers (Editor, Vietnam Magazine)

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America's Defense Monitor offers an in-depth look at our nation's military and security-related policies. Each thirty minute program is a visually stimulating and entertaining resource for the high school or college classroom. Episodes can be used to supplement regular classroom material or to introduce new topics. By bringing topics to life through the medium of video, this award-winning series can help arouse student interest in crucial issues.

Topics covered by *America's Defense Monitor* range from the social costs of military spending to nuclear proliferation, the arms trade, and the impact of the military on society, the media and the environment. Each program features interviews with important policy makers.

America's Defense Monitor is produced by the Center for Defense Information, the foremost research organization in the country analyzing military issues. The program is broadcast nationwide on the Public Broadcasting System. For more information and a complete catalogue, contact us at:

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